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Concerning The LIBRARY.

T. Y. CROWELL & CO., PUBLISHERS.

BOSTON, MASS.

WE are indebted to the above-named firm for two very attractive and thoroughly practical books on architectural subjects, "Convenient Houses" and "Beautiful Houses," by Louis H. Gibson. In the first book the author's effort is to carry out the relation of architecture to good and economical housekeeping. Following this he takes his reader a "journey through the house," starting at the porch, moving through the different rooms, and stopping to consider the various details. This brings about not only the general consideration of a house, but such details as the kitchen, pantries, plumbing, laundry and heating, thus dividing the book into two sections—"The Architect and the Housewife" and a "Journey Through the House," and is in a great measure educational. Following this, and in keeping with the general principles that have been set forth, are plans of fifty convenient houses. The first two sections of the book are "The Architect and the Housewife." The next section is devoted to practical house building, taking into consideration all the specifications that can concern a dwelling-house. Following this is the consideration of the business points in building. The closing section is devoted to the getting of a home, the whole making a thoroughly interesting and practical manual on these subjects.

"Beautiful Houses" opens with examples of the world's homes selected from the various countries, to show how each region has worked its own solution of the progress of domestic art, the sections under the heading of "Some House Plans, Materials

and Details" working out the general ideas involved in this book.

The last division is addressed to the client, explaining the artistic and business side of the profession, and also showing what the client may do to assist in a better architectural development.

Both books are neatly and attractively bound in linen, with a well designed ornament by the author's brother, David Gibson. Both of these works are thoroughly and interestingly illustrated throughout, the illustrations of foreign homes being carefully and judiciously selected, and the practical domestic designs, both interior and exterior, showing careful thought and study combined with good, artistic perception. All builders and housekeepers will find much to admire and interest them both in the illustrations and reading matter, as the work throughout is written with a clearness and simplicity of



Book Plate. By Thompson Willing.



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style which makes the author's meaning perfectly plain, even to the non-technical reader.

JOSEPH KNIGHT CO., BOSTON, MASS.

Dames of High Degree, by Thompson Willing, is a beautifully gotten-up book from cover to finis, illustrated throughout with ten portraits, being reproductions of the principal works of Sir Joshua Reynolds. Each portrait is beautifully and tastefully decorated by the artist, and they are portraits of ten dames of high degree and historical interest, all of which are the reproductions of a master hand. The text itself serves more as a description setting off the illustration, and throughout the book is decorated in a purely classical spirit, by carefully and well-studied hand-designed

head and tail pieces. The cover is beautifully designed by the artist in the same classical spirit, the colors being cream and gold. The work is printed on heavy cream paper, with wide margins and gilt edges.

Not only is it interesting for its contents, but the makeup of the book itself is first-class and artistic in every respect.

The same house sends us a copy of *A Mad Madonna and Other Stories*, by L. Clarkson Whitlock. This comprises six short stories, the scenes of which are laid principally in Rome, the time being the present day.

There is a classical spirit throughout the whole which gives the work a highly interesting and historical interest. The conceptions are quaint, to say the least, noticeably the first one—*The Mad Madonna*. The heroine of this short story is supposed to be the model of Raphael's Sistine Madonna. A hundred years after Raphael's time she is supposed to visit the scenes of her past life in search of the artist who brought her into notice through his beautiful altar-piece. There is in this, as in all the works of this author, a weirdness and quaintness of conception which holds the reader from first to last.

COPELAND & DAY, BOSTON.

Lovers' St. Ruth, and Three Other Tales, by Louise Imogen Guiney. These are scenes of real English life in the present day, but written in the quaint spirit of the past age. They are all more or less of a romantic and sensational nature, but highly interesting reading.

Garrison Tales From Tonguin, by James O'Neill. These are weird tales of this French border city, dealing principally with military subjects, and all ending with that wild and weird non-canny manner so much affected by this author. The books contain thirteen short stories. The covers of this and of the preceding books are quaint and interesting designs in the modern Beardsley spirit.